

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1727
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02232

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON PROPOSED
APPROACH TO FOURIE

REF: A) STATE 135975, B) CAPE TOWN 1078

1. SEPTTEL CONTAINS DRAFT TALKING POINTS FOR USE IN
FOLLOW-UP APPROACH TO BRAND FOURIE, INCLUDING A
LIST OF POSITIVE STEPS WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICANS
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MIGHT TAKE. THAT LIST INCLUDES SEVERAL STEPS
WHICH WERE SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT (REF A) AND/OR
THE CAPE TOWN FIVE (REF B). THE FOLLOWING PRESENTS
THE CONTACT GROUP'S REASONS FOR EXCLUDING
OTHER SUGGESTIONS THAT HAVE EMERGED.

(A) DE FACTO CEASEFIRE: THE CONTACT GROUP CONSIDERED

CAREFULLY THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING AS A POSITIVE STEP ASSURANCE BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THEY WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE FURTHER OPERATIONS AGAINST SWAPO BASES IN ANGOLA, IN THE ABSENCE OF SWAPO PROVOCATION. GROUP DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY REQUEST BY THE FIVE FOR SUCH AN ASSURANCE (IF SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED TO BY SOUTH AFRICANS) MIGHT LATER BE USED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO CLAIM THAT THEY HAD OUR APPROVAL OF CROSS-BORDER RETALIATIONS IN RESPONSE TO ANY SWAPO PROVOCATION. THE GROUP ALSO DOUBTED THAT A RECIPROCAL ASSURANCE FROM SWAPO COULD BE OBTAINED, ESPECIALLY UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN, HOWEVER, THE GROUP DID INCLUDE, FOLLOWING THE LIST OF POSITIVE STEPS, THE STATEMENT: "NONE OF THESE (POSITIVE STEPS) WILL, HOWEVER, HAVE ANY EFFECT UNLESS COUPLED WITH REAL EFFORTS TO AVOID ANY FURTHER ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE."

(B) TRANSFER TO THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL OF THE REMAINING SAG POWERS SUCH AS POLICE, JUSTICE, AND HIGHER EDUCATION: THE CONTACT GROUP CONSIDERED THE CAPE TOWN FIVE'S SUGGESTION THAT THIS BE INCLUDED BUT FELT THAT SUCH A TRANSFER OF POWER WOULD ONLY SERVE TO COMPROMISE FURTHER THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL. THE GROUP SIMPLY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL WOULD ACT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENTLY
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FROM THE SOUTH AFRICANS WITH REGARD TO POLICE AND JUDICIAL POWER.

(C) CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD: THE CONTACT GROUP ALSO CONSIDERED SUGGESTING THAT A CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD BE CREATED TO REVIEW COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE. TO BE EFFECTIVE SUCH A BOARD WOULD HAVE TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIAN SOCIETY, AND GROUP SEES NO WAY TO ACHIEVE SUCH REPRESENTATION PRIOR TO AGREEMENT ON A SETTLEMENT. IN ADDITION, THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF SUCH A BOARD DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD COULD COMPLICATE THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S TASK OF SATISFYING HIMSELF AS TO THE GOOD CONDUCT OF THE POLICE.

(D) FINALLY, THE IDEA OF SUGGESTING TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THEY MAKE AN INITIAL WITHDRAWAL (EVEN A RELATIVELY SMALL ONE) OF SOME OF THEIR FORCES FROM NAMIBIA WAS PUT FORWARD AND THE GROUP RESPONDED THAT IT WAS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC. THE FOUR WERE UNANIMOUS IN OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF THIS SUGGESTION IN OUR LIST. IT IS RELEVANT TO NOTE THAT A STRONG CONCERN WAS

EXPRESSED IN THE GROUP, MOST POINTEDLY BY THE CANADIANS,
THAT THE CONCEPT OF A LIST OF SPECIFIC POSITIVE STEPS
MAY LEAD TO SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSES OF A PARTIAL OR
DISTORTED KIND THAT COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING
TO OUR EFFORT. ON THIS BASIS, AND CONSIDERING THAT
THE SOUTH AFRICANS ALREADY KNOW WHAT KINDS OF MEASURES
WOULD BE HELPFUL IN BUILDING CONFIDENCE ON THE OTHER
SIDE, THE GROUP TENDED TO RESIST THE ELABORATION
OF THE LIST. YOUNG

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